Montana

School Nutrition Programs

Office of Public Instruction
Division of Health Enhancement and Safety

2009 Annual Report

(July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009)





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Introduction

Child Nutrition Programs

The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act authorizes all of the federal school meal and child nutrition programs, which provide funding to ensure that low-income children have access to healthy and nutritious foods. The child nutrition programs touch millions of children each day, and improve educational achievement, economic security, nutrition and health.

Although the programs are permanently authorized, every five years Congress reviews these programs through the reauthorization process. This reauthorization provides an opportunity to improve and strengthen these programs so they better meet the needs of our nation's children.



U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack stated that the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act is needed to help curb obesity and end hunger. Vilsack said more than 16.5 million children live in households that have difficulty putting food on the table on a daily basis. He added that nearly a third of children are overweight or obese.

Reauthorization Priorities

- ✓ Increasing program access
- ✓ Improving the nutritional quality of school meals
- ✓ Enhancing program performance

Also important for Reauthorization

- ✓ Providing nutrition education for children and families
- ✓ Strengthening the farm-to-school programs

The OPI School Nutrition Program is working on these priorities through the Montana Team Nutrition Program and other program activities.

School Nutrition Programs

The School Nutrition Programs (SNP) unit is administered by the Office of Public Instruction, Health Enhancement and Safety Division. The SNP services for schools include administration of the seven U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs and the Cooperative Purchase Program.

SNP reimburses schools for meals served to children; distributes donated (commodity) foods; provides training for school food service personnel, administrators and teachers; ensures schools are in compliance with federal regulations; and provides nutrition education for students to promote healthful habits.

In school year 2008-09, Montana School Food Authorities participated in at least one of the following programs. Programs administered by Montana SNP include:

- ✓ National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- ✓ School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- ✓ Afterschool Snack Program
- ✓ Special Milk Program
- ✓ Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- ✓ USDA Food Distribution Program (including the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program)
- ✓ Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- ✓ Montana Team Nutrition Program
- ✓ Office of Public Instruction Cooperative Purchase Program

Sponsors choose which programs, if any, to participate in based on local needs. Public schools, private/nonpublic schools and nonprofit residential child care institutions with children high school age or under, camps, nonprofit private organizations and governmental agencies may participate in the programs.

Montana SNP Vision:

Our vision is school communities that provide children full access to healthful meals and snacks that nourish minds and bodies and school nutrition environments that encourage healthful lifestyles and are supported by community partnerships.

Montana SNP Mission:

To ensure that schools provide nutritious meals and promote healthy lifestyles through collaborative education and training, and administration of the USDA's School Nutrition Programs.



School Lunch and Breakfast Programs

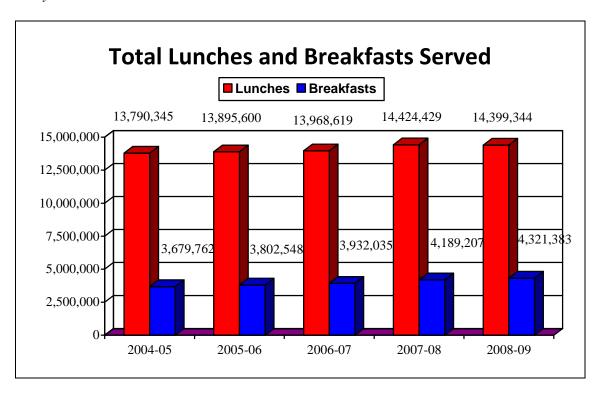
The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) began in 1946 under the National School Lunch Act and is intended to help meet the nutrition needs of children from low-income households.

Lunches served to children under this program are required to meet one-third of the total Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) for key nutrients (**minimum** requirements are set for calories, protein, calcium, Vitamin A,

Vitamin C, and iron; **maximum** requirements are set for total fat and saturated fat).

The School Breakfast Program (SBP) began as a pilot project in 1966 and was made permanent in 1975. Breakfasts served under this program are designed to meet one-fourth of the RDA for the key nutrients.

Many school meals are served to children eligible for free or reduced-price meals. These children come from low-income families who are most at risk for hunger and food insecurity. *Combined, a school breakfast and lunch provide over half the nutrition that a child needs in a day.*



Over the past year:

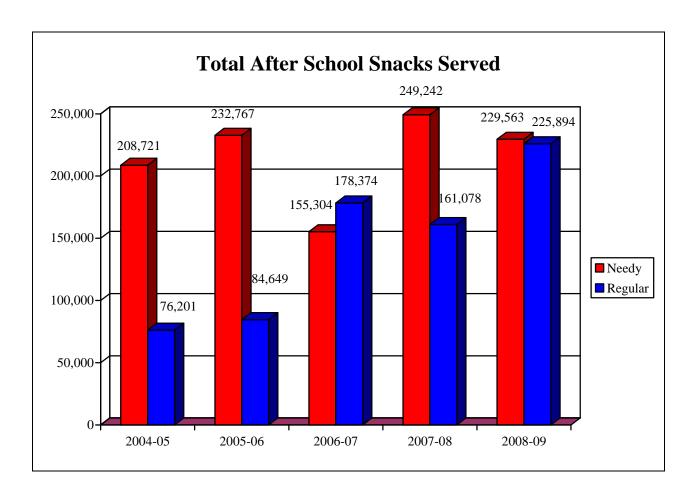
- There was a decrease of 25,085 lunches served.
- There was an increase of 132,176 breakfast meals served.



Afterschool Snack Program

Started in 1998, the Afterschool Snack Program offers children education and enrichment activities that are safe, fun and filled with learning opportunities. Schools in which 50% of the students qualify for free and reduced price lunches are considered area eligible and students qualify for

needy (free) snacks.



Over the past year:

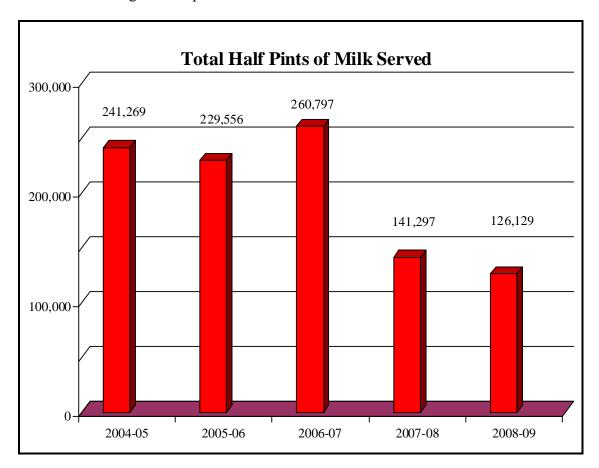
• There was an increase of 45,137 snacks served.



Special Milk Program

Schools that do not provide other school meal programs may participate in the Special Milk Program. This program was also for split-session prekindergarten and kindergarten students who did not have access to lunch and breakfast at school. As schools implement full day kindergarten programs, students have access to the lunch, breakfast and snack programs. Thus, the

number of half-pints served through the Special Milk Program has decreased. In 2009, sponsors included 6 Kindergarten Milk programs, 11 Milk Only programs, and 5 Summer Food Service Program camps.



Over the past year:

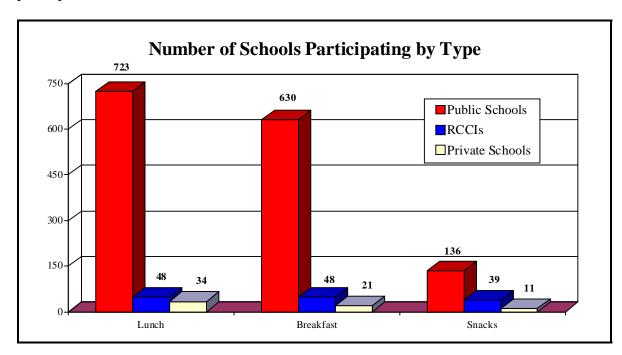
• There was a decrease of 15,168 half-pints of milk served



Types of Schools Participating

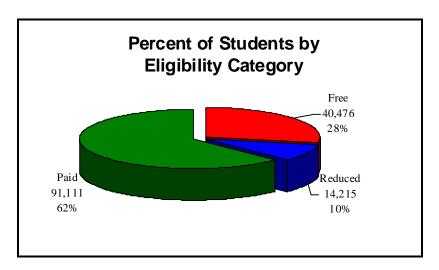
In 2009, 256 sponsors participated in the lunch program, 208 sponsors participated in the breakfast program, and 95 sponsors participated in the afterschool snack program. These sponsors include public schools, public or nonprofit private Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs), and nonprofit private schools. All of

these organizations are collectively called "School Food Authorities" (SFAs) within the School Nutrition Programs. An RCCI can include correctional facilities or group homes for children with special needs. This chart details the types of schools (within the SFAs) that participate.

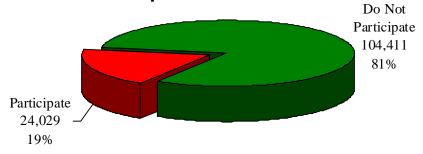


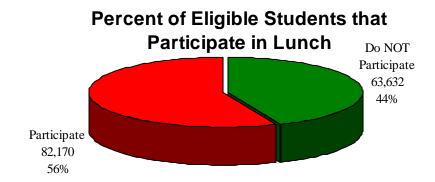
Participation in the Programs

In Montana, of the 145,802 students enrolled in schools participating in the School Nutrition Programs; 40,476 were eligible for free meals, 14,215 were eligible for reduced-price meals, and 91,111 were eligible for paid meals. In the 2008-09 school year, 24,029 of the total eligible students participated daily in the School Breakfast Program. This was an increase of 751 students eating breakfast each day. During the same period, 82,170 of the total eligible students participated daily in the National School Lunch Program. This was an increase of 2,044 students from the previous year.



Percent of Eligible Students that Participate in Breakfast

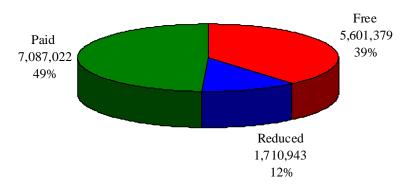


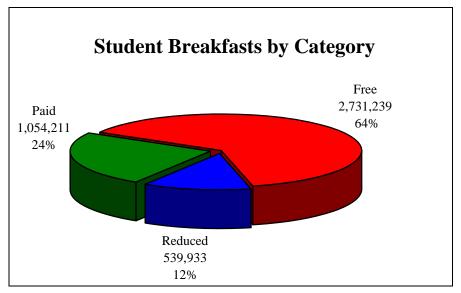


Eligibility of Students

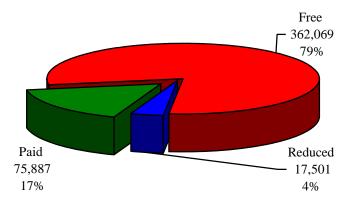
Of those that participate in lunch and breakfast, participants are predominately eligible for free and reduced-price meals. During the 2009 school year, there was a total of 14,399,344 lunch meals served, 4,321,383 breakfast meals served, and 455,457 snacks served.

Student Lunches by Category

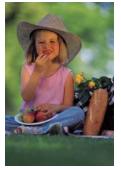




Student Snacks by Category



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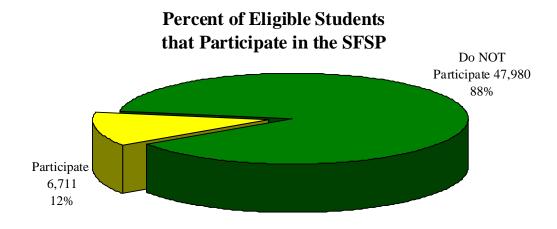
Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides nutritious meals at no charge to children while school is not in session. This program was established to ensure that children in low-income areas could continue to receive nutritious meals in between school sessions.

Montana is dotted with small rural communities, making it difficult to reach children in need with the SFSP. In spite of this difficulty, however,

there are sponsors and sites in low-income areas in each of the six large cities and on each of the seven American Indian reservations throughout the state.

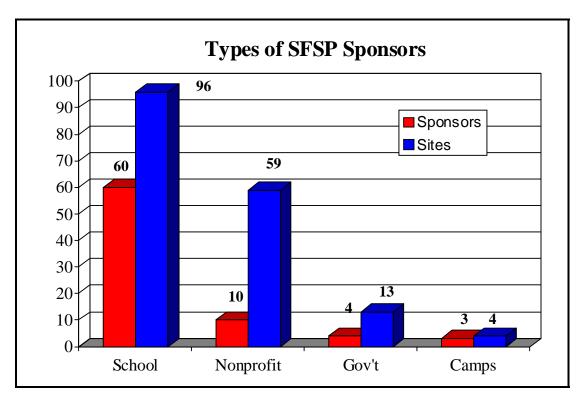
Of the 54,691 children eligible for free and reduced-price meals during the 2009 school year, 6,711 (12 percent) participated daily in the SFSP. In 2009, 268,381 lunches were served. This is an increase of 40,410 lunches from the previous year.



Types of Summer Sponsors Participating



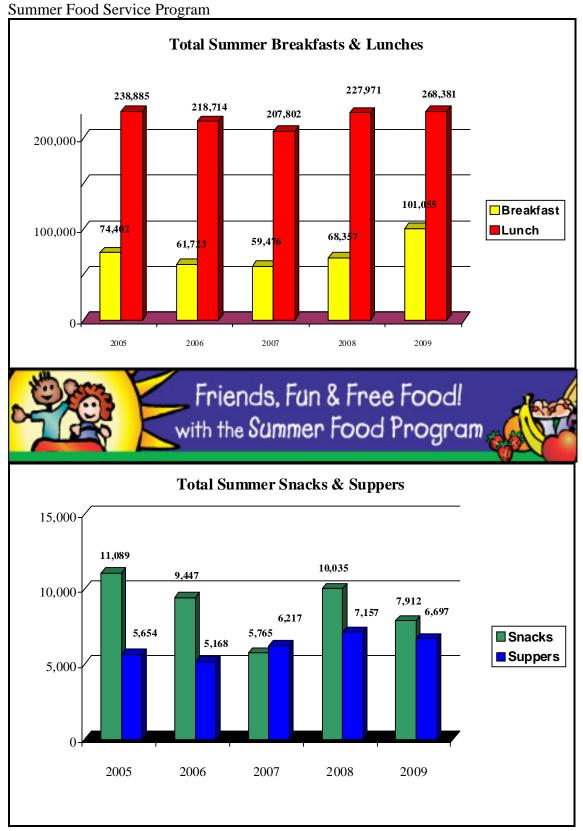
Sponsors for the SFSP include school districts, local government agencies, public or private non-profit organizations and camps. "Sponsors" are organizations that operate the SFSP, and "sites" are the total number of places that sponsors serve meals on a daily basis. A total of 77 sponsors provided meals at 172 sites in Montana during the summer of 2009. Sites operate in low-income areas where at least one half of the children come from families that qualify for free or reduced-price meals.



Over the past year:

- There was an increase of 16 sponsors and 16 sites.
- There were an additional 40,410 lunches and 32,668 breakfasts served.

Number of Meals Served



USDA Food Distribution Program



The USDA Food Distribution Program delivers a variety of USDA commodity food to School Food Authorities. USDA Foods account for 15 to 20 percent of school

nutrition program food. During the 2008-09 school year, schools received an entitlement of 20.75 cents for each lunch served (during the previous school year) to spend on commodity foods. This entitlement totaled \$3,316,178 (83,852 cases of food).

USDA Foods are a healthy food choice.

USDA continually explores ways to offer healthy food choices so that schools can serve meals consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Whole Grains

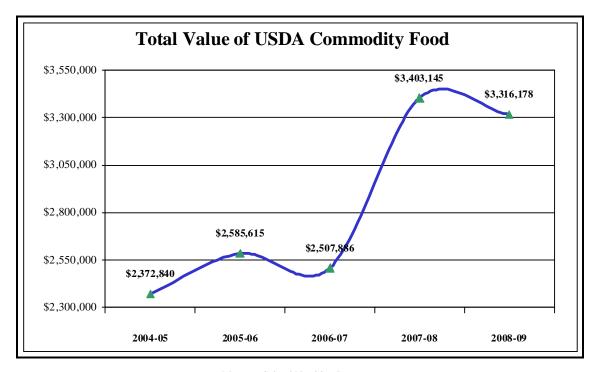
Brown rice, rolled oats, whole wheat flour, whole grain spaghetti

Less Sugar

Canned fruits are packed in light syrup, water or natural juices.

Less Fat

85% lean ground beef, 97% lean ham, 95% lean turkey ham, diced chicken, part skim mozzarella, and no trans fat in frozen potato products.

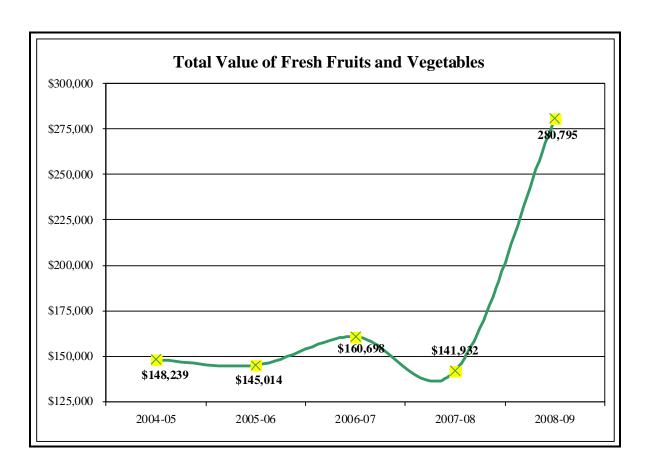




Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Department of Defense

A portion of the total entitlement for Montana's Food Distribution Program is set aside for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. This program is administered through the U.S. Department of Defense, and allows schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program to use the

USDA commodity entitlement to purchase high quality fresh fruits and vegetables. During the 2008-09 school year, School Nutrition Programs was allocated \$280,795 for this program, an increase of \$138,863 from the previous year.



Montana Team Nutrition



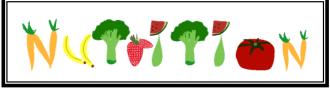
Montana State University in Bozeman, MT is home to the **Montana Team Nutrition Program**, which is the nutrition education component of School Nutrition Programs. Team Nutrition is an integrated, behavior based, comprehensive program geared toward improving children's lifelong eating and physical activity habits through the principles of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA's My Pyramid. Team

Nutrition works to improve access to nutrient rich foods and beverages throughout the school setting and to promote the health and wellness of children.

Team Nutrition receives funding through competitive USDA grants. School Nutrition Programs was awarded two Team Nutrition Training grants to support the 2008-09 school year. The grants' goals were to enhance Montana's infrastructure to promote healthful lifestyle habits for Montana families by impacting both schools and child care settings. With help from state partners, training and technical assistance, along with increased access to nutrition education resources, school personnel, childcare providers, parents and caregivers will be better equipped to teach integrated, skill-based nutrition content to children. School foodservice training efforts focused on providing safe, appealing and healthy meals and snacks, increasing breakfast program participation and reinforcing positive feeding relationships with children. Grant activities also work to build statewide support for Farm to School programs; and encourage school personnel to take the HealthierUS or Montana Menu School Challenges.

Program Objectives:

Reach School Food Authorities, administrators, educators, parents, childcare providers and the community by:



- Increasing the number of schools and child care providers that prepare meals which are consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and that meet USDA MyPyramid menu planning nutrition standards. All schools, and child care programs serving USDA reimbursed meals will be targeted through training, technical assistance, and better access to Team Nutrition resources.
- Increasing access to Team Nutrition education curricula and resources for schools and child care programs through an expanded training schedule that promotes healthy eating and physical activity to children and their families.
- Expanding the number of schools that support classroom, cafeteria and community initiatives such as the HealthierUS School Challenge, Healthier Montana Menu Challenge, and Farm to School programs.
- Increasing the number of Montana schools and childcare programs that promote positive role modeling by adults and promote the development of positive feeding relationships with children.

Montana Team Nutrition Program Activities

Training and Technical Assistance

Expanding Breakfast Programs

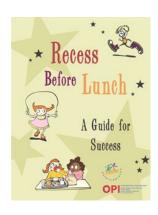
Objective: Increasing Program Access

- Developed and implemented a pilot project involving five different school districts to expand breakfast program participation levels through a breakfast in the classroom program or grab and go service options.
- In cooperation with Great Falls Public Schools developed and distributed a short DVD movie on breakfast in the classroom.
- Assisted Big Sky Fit Kids Program with promoting the habit of eating breakfast to children through their *Breakfast Makes a Difference Campaign*. This program reached over 7,000 children.

Implementing a Recess Before Lunch Schedule

Objective: Increasing Program Access

- Developed and distributed the 2008 survey report, *Challenges*, *Benefits and Essential Factors for Success in Implementing a Recess Before Lunch Schedule in Montana Schools*.
- Provide on-going technical assistance and training (based on the results from 2008 survey and 2002-03 pilot project) to schools in Montana and throughout the nation on this best practice.





Healthy Menu Planning and Meal Service

Objective: Improving Nutritional Quality of School Meals

32% of Montana elementary schools implement a recess before lunch schedule.

- Promoted and trained school personnel on the healthy school award programs including the HealthierUS School Challenge and the Healthier Montana Menu Challenge. Assisted eight schools in achieving and celebrating one of these awards.
- Funded \$2,000 of Healthier Montana Menu Challenge mini grants to four school districts to motivate them to achieve an award for their school breakfast or lunch program.
- Supported six regional hands on cooking workshops for child care program providers.
- Developed and provided training and materials to staff on the implementation of a *Healthy Mealtime Philosophy* in school cafeterias or childcare programs.

Nutrition Education

Objective: Reducing Childhood Obesity

- Distributed 50 hard copies of the Montana Team Nutrition resource, *Eat Smart Be Smart: Teaching Nutrition through Math, Science, Language Arts and Health Enhancement* curriculum guide to kindergarten through fifth grade educators. Electronic distribution of this curriculum guide is available by accessing the Nutrition Educations Resources link of OPI's web site.
- Conducted and supported a train-the-trainer workshop to eighteen MSU Extension county agents on offering *Nutrition Education for Teachers* regional training workshops in their communities.
- Funded \$3,000 of Healthy Habits Challenge Mini Grants to 6 school districts to motivate children to adapt healthy habits concerning food and physical activity.

Farm to School Programs

Objective: Strengthening the Farm-to-School Programs

- Funded \$6,000 of Farm to School Mini Grants to eight local schools or communities.
- In collaboration with the Montana Department of Agriculture, developed and distributed 1,000 copies of the *Mmm Mmm Montana* poster to schools or community organizations. This poster and lessons educate children on the delicious foods grown in Montana.
- Conducted a pilot project, *Montana Farm to School Fundraising Campaign* involving two school districts to sell local and healthy Montana food products. This project sold \$18,672 dollars in food with 40% of the profits going to the school districts and 100% of the money staying within Montana. Developed and distributed the final report and resources from this project via the Montana Farm to School link on the OPI web site.



Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program

Objective: Reducing Childhood Obesity

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program (FFVP) was developed as catalyst to combat childhood obesity by exposing children to fresh fruits and vegetables and helping children learn more healthful eating habits. The FFVP has been successful in introducing school children to a variety of produce that they otherwise might not have the opportunity to sample.



The FFVP is a new program for Montana in 2009. A total of 28 sponsors/50 schools participated and a total of \$608,949 or \$64 per student was spent.

Schools are selected based on the following criteria:

Elementary School

National School Lunch Program Participant

FFVP Application

50% of students must be eligible for free and reduced price lunch

Highest priority given to schools with the highest percentage of free and reduced students

Total enrollment of all schools selected must result in \$50-75 per student allocation each year

Program Activities

PROGRAM REVIEWS

Objective: Enhancing Program Performance

Coordinated Review Effort (CRE)

The Coordinated Review Effort is a comprehensive on-site evaluation of the School Food Authority once every five years. School Nutrition Programs staff conducted 54 coordinated reviews and 3 additional administrative reviews during the 2008-09 school year.

School Meals Initiative (SMI)

School lunches must meet the recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which specify no more than 30 percent of calories come from fat, and less than 10 percent of calories come from saturated fat. School lunches must provide one-third of the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) of protein, calcium, iron, vitamin A, vitamin C and calories. School breakfasts must provide one-fourth of the RDA for the same nutrients. Afterschool snacks must provide two food components (meat/alternate, fruit, vegetable, grain, milk). During the 2008-09 school year, 54 School Meal Initiative Reviews were conducted.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

School Nutrition staff conducted 49 sponsor and site reviews in 2009. Sponsors who were found to be in violation of program requirements submitted corrective action plans. Reporting

PROGRAM REPORTING

Objective: Enhancing Program Performance

Verification of Free and Reduced Price Lunch Applications

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that participate in the School Nutrition Programs provide free and reduced-price meal benefits to eligible students through collection and determination of free and reduced-price school meal applications. As part of this responsibility, schools must verify a sample of the applications and report the results to the State Agency.

Only 20 (8.9%) LEAs had less than 80% response rate from households (meaning that more than 20% of the applicants selected for verification at their school did NOT respond by sending documents that show what they reported on their application was accurate). This verification data serves as the primary source of information on the accuracy of the eligibility determination process.

Sanitation Inspections

Schools are required to have 2 sanitation inspections per year and report the actual number of inspections to the State Agency. Montana schools reported the following for the 2009 SY:

Number of schools that had 0 inspections: 59 (7.2%) Number of schools that had 1 inspection: 265 (32.4%) Number of schools that had 2 inspections: 495 (60.4%) Number of schools that did not report inspections: 0

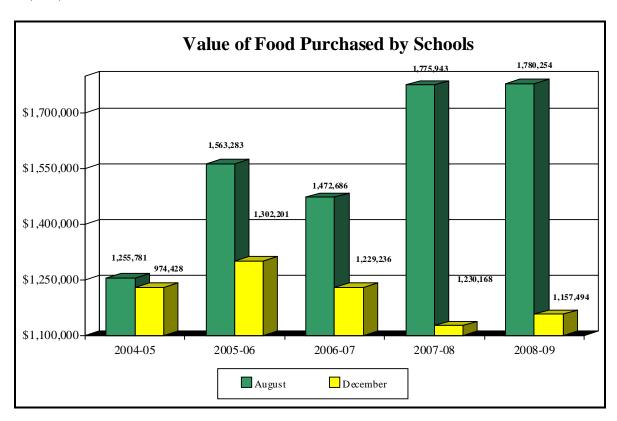
OPI Cooperative Purchase Program

The OPI Cooperative Purchase Program was implemented in 1980 to assist schools in purchasing high-quality nutritious foods at reasonable prices. There are two bids a year (winter and spring) and four deliveries per bid for a total of eight food deliveries per year.

Through the Advisory for the Bid and Commodity (ABC) Committee, the items available through the bid are continuously revised and improved. The committee consists of state agency staff and 30 school food service personnel from schools representing various sizes and locations in the state.

Food items included on the bid must be appealing, nutritious and cost-effective. By combining purchase orders, all participating schools receive the high-quality, low-cost bid items at the same price regardless of size or location. Nutrition information for all products on the bid is provided to participating schools to assist with nutrient analysis of menus.

The program coordinator serves as a liaison between schools and food manufacturers, producers, processors, distributors, and representatives. Purchasing assistance is offered to school personnel through daily telephone contact and regional or state training sessions. During the 2008-09 school year, Montana schools purchased 117,152 cases of food worth \$2,937,748.



Equipment Grants



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The ARRA provided a one-time appropriation of \$100,000,000 for equipment assistance to school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program. The Montana Office of Public Instruction share of \$224,981 was awarded on June 1, 2009 to 45 school districts throughout the state.

Applicants were required to demonstrate the need for the equipment based on improving the quality of school foodservice meals, improving safety, improving energy efficiency, and/or supporting expanded participation in the school meal programs.

The one-time grants of \$5,000 were awarded on a competitive basis, and as stipulated in the ARRA, priority was given to schools in which at least 50 percent of the students are from low-income families.

While the primary effect of the equipment assistance grants authorized by the ARRA was to improve the infrastructure in the school lunch program, the grants were also intended to stimulate activity within the American economy.

Federal Reimbursement Rates for 2008-09

SCHOOL PROGRAMS MEAL, SNACK AND MILK REIMBURSEMENT RATES

Expressed in Dollars or Fractions Thereof

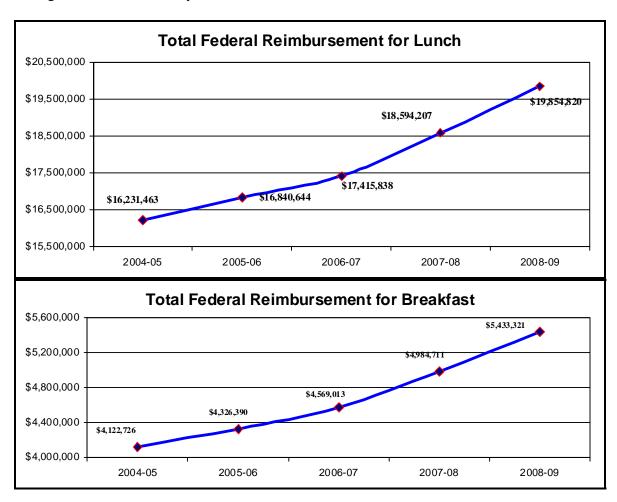
Effective from July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009 for School Programs

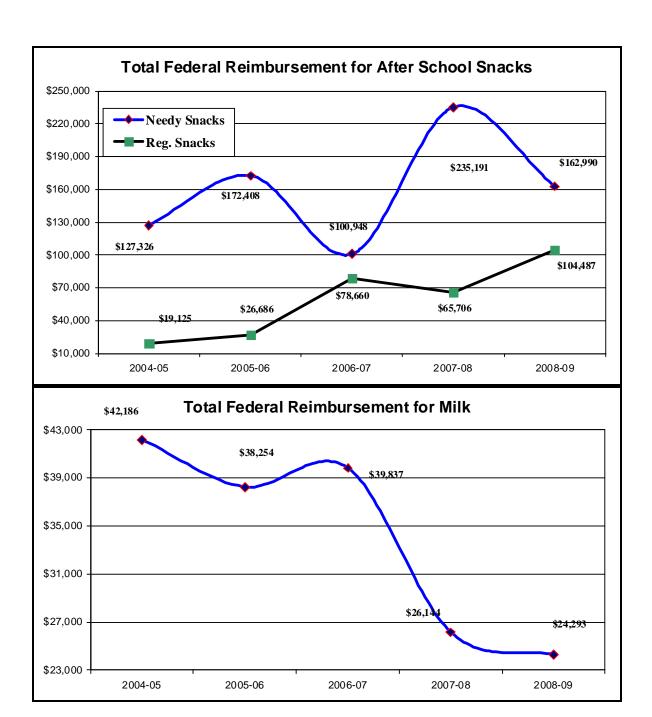
Effective from January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009 for Summer Food Service Program

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH	Less than 60%		60% or more
PROGRAM			
Paid	0.24		0.26
Reduced Price	2.17		2.19
Free	2.57		2.59
SCHOOL BREAKFAST	Non-severe Need		Severe Need
PROGRAM			
Paid	0.25		0.25
Reduced Price	1.10		1.38
Free	1.40		1.68
SPECIAL MILK	All Milk	Paid Milk	Free Milk
PROGRAM			
Pricing Programs without free option	0.1825	N/A	N/A
Pricing Programs with free option	N/A	0.1825	Average cost per ½ pint of milk
Non-pricing programs	0.1825	N/A	N/A
AFTERSCHOOL SNACK PROGRAM			
Paid	0.06		
Reduced Price	0.35		
Free	0.71		
SUMMER FOOD SERVICE	Operating	Administrative	
PROGRAM			L.
D 16	1 65	High	Low
Breakfast	1.65	0.1650	0.1300
Lunch & Supper	2.88	0.3025	0.2500
Supplements (Snacks)	0.67	0.0825	0.0650

School Nutrition Programs Reimbursements

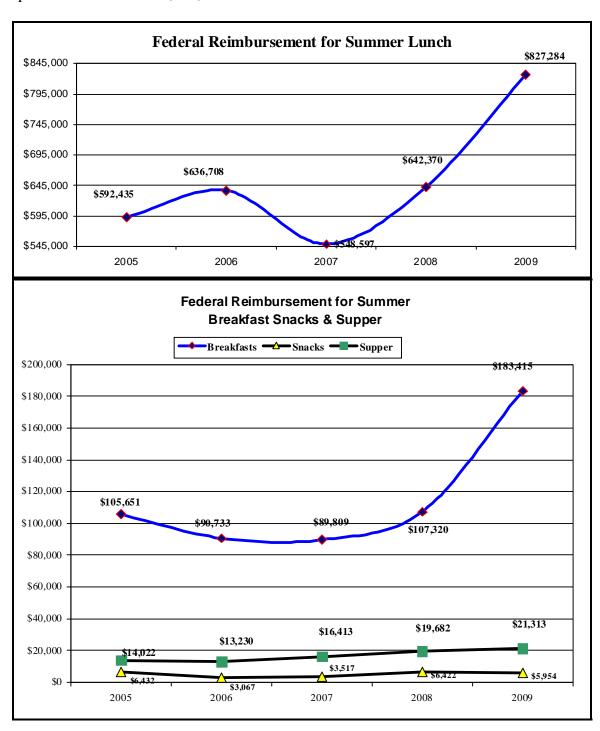
Total reimbursement paid to schools for meals served (lunch, breakfast, snacks, and milk) during the 2008-09 school year totaled \$25,579,911.





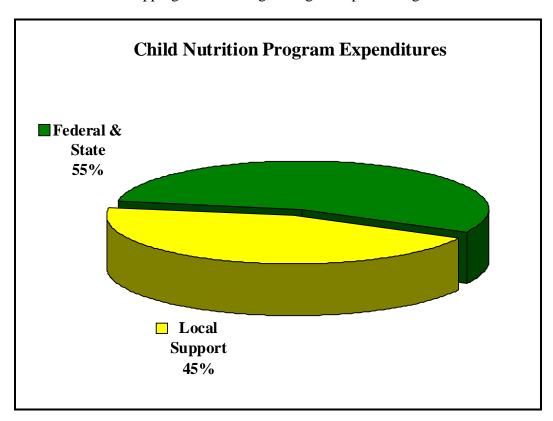
Summer Food Service Program Reimbursements

The total meal reimbursement (for lunch, breakfast, snacks, and supper) paid to summer sponsors in 2009 was \$1,037,966.



Financial Management

The USDA provides general assistance for every reimbursable meal served to children in school according to reimbursement rates that are updated yearly. School Food Authorities reported \$31,407,595 in program income in 2008-09 which included \$30,773,887 in federal reimbursement and \$633,708 in state matching funds. The state matching funds were used to cover the cost of shipping and handling, storage and processing of USDA commodity foods.



Overall school expenditures were \$57,014,553. After subtracting federal reimbursement and state match, local support to the meal programs was \$25,606,958 or 45 percent of the total expenditures.

Local support includes students who pay for breakfast and lunch. The average paid student price for breakfast and lunch were \$1.14 and 1.83 respectively. This average included a range of 30 cents to \$2.00 for breakfast and 60 cents to \$3.60 for lunch.

FUNDING FOR THE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS IN MONTANA

October 1, 2008- September 30, 2009

Income

National School Lunch Program Meals Afterschool Snacks	\$19,854,820 \$267,477
USDA Foods – Commodities including	\$3,316,718
DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	\$3,310,716
National School Lunch Program (lunches, snacks and commodities)	\$23,439,015
School Breakfast Program	\$5,433,321
Special Milk Program	\$24,293
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	\$608,949
Summer Food Service Program Reimbursement	\$1,037,966
SFSP USDA Foods - Commodities	\$5,362
Summer Food Service Program	\$1,043,328
Equipment Grants	\$224,981
Total Federal Funding	\$30,773,887
Total State Matching Funds (July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009)	\$633,708
Total Federal and State Funding	\$31,407,595
Expenditures	
School Expenditures (Food, Labor, Other)	\$57,014,553
Federal and State Reimbursement	\$31,407,595
Student, Adult Payments, General Fund, Other Sources	\$25,606,958